

Nation

The Best of James Bay '99



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- **The Old Man Who**
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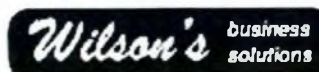


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It's not too late

It's a dirty crime when the state starts to legislate ignorant and ethnocentric laws. In short, I feel that Bill 65 is nothing short of a racist policy designed to take Native self-determination back into the dark ages. The bill is intended to centralize all Quebec government decisions involving First Nations in the office of the Native Affairs Minister, Guy Chevrette.

Bill 65 only requires two more steps to be put into effect. The final steps are adoption and sanction, according to minister Chevrette's office. According to a press attaché, the ministry is confident this bill will pass.

The bill reads in part, "The minister shall oversee the negotiation of every agreement between the government or any of its departments or agencies and a Native nation" or any of the nation's affiliated groups. It says that any agreements must be approved by the government and signed by the minister.

Right now, the Cree School Board negotiates directly with the Education Ministry of Quebec.

We would lose if this bill becomes law because all decisions related to Cree education will have to answer to one man, one ministry. An ethnic ministry at that. Perhaps in the future we'll see a Ministry of Jewish Affairs or other ethnic groups that are not pure "laïne."

The fact that this law is taking place without consultation with the First Nations in Quebec may very well make it illegal. The Grand Council of the Crees is worried about what effect this bill will have on its relationships with the Quebec government.

Even the Opposition Liberal critic on Native affairs has said in Quebec's National Assembly that it could be unilaterally changing the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

There are other arguments

by William Nicholls

that make sense to anyone with the least amount of common sense. Anyone can look at the past federal model of Indian Affairs and see it was costly and grossly inefficient. For a province that complains about the Feds so much, I can't understand why anyone would want to emulate them.

The new bill would create an even longer process in any future negotiations because two ministries would be involved - a complication that could be disastrous in serious ways. Take the example of the rise in Cree diabetes. As it stands, the Cree Health Board deals with the Ministry of Health, which is in the best position to understand the issues. With Bill 65, the Ministry of Native Affairs is the one who decides and the more knowledgeable sources are left out in the cold.

Not only that but Minister Chevrette has all the power and none of the compassion. If you take his actions concerning the Cree forestry case and the suspension of the 1995 Memorandum of Understanding monies, and then apply them across the board to every sector of Cree life, it's a huge problem. The control over our lives would be intolerable. It may even fall within the terms of genocide as understood by the United Nations - the enforcing of a will and way of life upon a people whether they want it or not. The Crees could literally be starved into submission to our Quebec masters.

This is the dark side of a bill that Minister Chevrette says is to "promote the establishment and maintenance of harmonious relations with the Native nations and communities of Quebec."

Fight it. Phone your chiefs to talk about this issue and phone your member of the National Assembly.

Once again the numbers are: André Pelletier (Abitibi-East) at 418-644-4869 or François Gendron (Abitibi-West) at 418-646-8741.

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ON THE COVER

Best of James Bay 2000

Photos: Neil Diamond

Cover Design: Sylvia Tennisco

Paste your favourite photo here.

I am often asked by friends, acquaintances and other interested parties what I like. To enlighten them more I prefer to tell them, with gusto, of my dislikes. It don't rhyme well but rap with me anyway.

I don't like cheese. Except in pizza, cheesecake and I forget what else.

I don't like tomatoes except in my famous spaghetti sauce, on tacos and sometimes ketchup.

I don't like coconut with anything except out of its shell and in pina colodas.

I don't like Red Rose tea except when it's served out in the bush by an open fire.

I don't like Klik except when it's served in the bush and sliced extremely thin and fried to a crisp in about a gallon of lard.

I don't like Labatt 50 except when it's closing time and there's nothing else to drink.

I don't like carrots except when they're raw or baked in carrot cake.

I don't like Celine Dion because she's a phony and has a bony ass.

I don't like Oprah because she's a phony and has a fat ass.

I don't like action movies unless they're by Bruce Lee or Jackie Chan.

I don't like Preston Manning because he's a whiny-voiced redneck.

I don't like made-for-TV movies because they look so cheap.

I don't like self-help books because they don't really help people and they're almost always so badly written.

I don't like the movie Titanic, I have never liked it and I never will.

I don't like waiting in line anywhere.

I don't like it when it's sunny and hot.

I don't like coffee in Chinese restaurants.

I don't like poutine because it has

cheese in it.

I don't like people who can't do their banking fast at ATM machines.

I don't like people who say, pray tell.

I don't like people who pray out loud.

I don't like girls who put on too much perfume.

I don't like cheeseburgers and you know why.

I don't like New Country, especially Garth Brooks (or Chris Gaines)... What a loser.

I don't like checkers and euchre because I suck at both.

I don't like the word "basically."

I don't like gambling because I never win anything.

I don't like olives except maybe in James Bond-type martinis.

I don't like Quebecois who refuse to speak English tabarnack.

I don't like chick flicks unless I'm trying to impress a chick.

I don't like piss warm beer unless there's nothing else to drink.

I don't like Gitanes cigarettes and people who smoke them.

I don't like sex with blow-up dolls.

I don't like masturbating unless I have to.

I don't like Hydro-Quebec. Period.

I don't like bad spelling.

Needles to say, I don't like large weddings unless it's between royalty.

I don't like royalty although I do like using the royal We.

We don't like creamed corn but can eat maybe a quarter of a cob with butter at a barbecue.

We don't like cutesy spellings of names like Krystal or Shantalle.

We don't like not being able to come up with anything better to write about.

The list goes on and on and that's the way we like it...

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Nation



Quebec too lax with loggers: ecologists

The Quebec government is too cozy with the forestry industry and lets it get away with too much, say environmentalists.

Long delays in the filing of cutting plans are just the latest example.

"They are too close to each other," said Pierre Dubois, coordinator of the Coalition for Northern Virgin Forests.

"We have doubts about whether the government really has the public interest at heart in its forestry policy because it is too close to the industry," said Dubois, who is a forestry engineer.

The coalition unites 12 Quebec groups representing 300,000 people, including the Grand Council of the Crees. It is calling for a public inquiry into Quebec's biggest industry - forestry.

"There is a big problem of lack of control," agreed Luce Balthazar, director of a regional environmental council in the Gaspé region, where three-quarters of the economy is based on forestry.

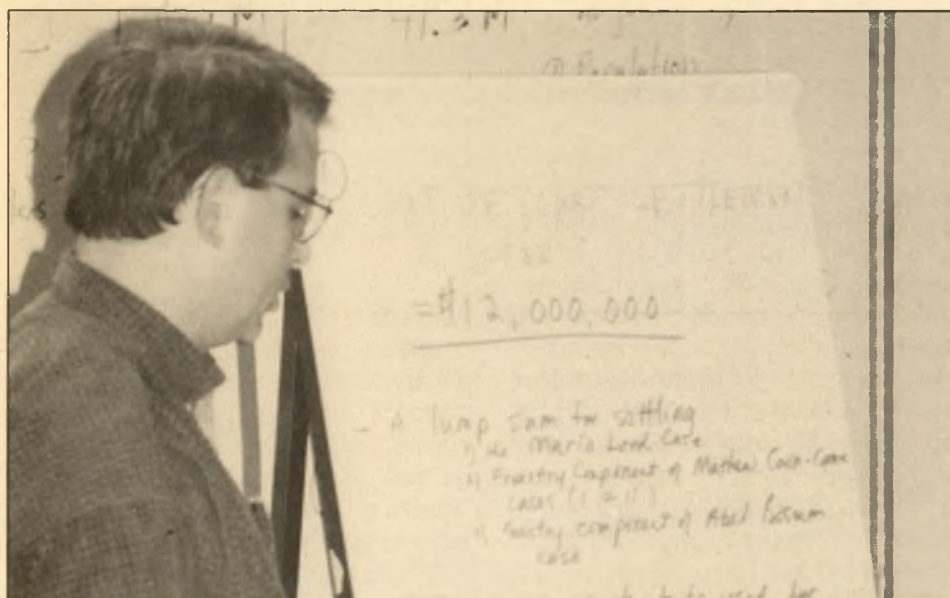
"The government has become a great specialist in throwing powder in people's eyes. They are giving control (over the forests) to those who exploit the environment."

As an example, Balthazar pointed to consultations which forestry companies held last summer in the Gaspé. The hearings were scheduled for the last week of July, a time when many people were away on vacation and couldn't attend.

"There is very little power in the hands of citizens," said Balthazar. "The forestry regime is incomprehensible to most citizens."

Dubois said the government's explanation of why the cutting plans are late "is not plausible." (The government says forestry companies had trouble digesting a new formula for measuring timber resources.)

Dubois said the real problem is that the forestry companies are now required to consult communities about logging - which is something the companies don't want to do: "It's not in their habit." -ALEX ROSLIN



CUTTING PLANS LATE ALL OVER QUEBEC

Forestry companies all over Quebec are at least six months late filing their cutting plans as required under Quebec law, acknowledge provincial officials.

Many companies are 18 months overdue, including some logging in James Bay.

The lack of cutting plans has some experts worried logging companies may take advantage of the lack of plans.

"There was a delay in filing, yes," said Louise Accolas, spokeswoman for Natural Resources Minister Guy Chevrette.

Accolas didn't know how many companies are late. She said the companies will file the five-year cutting plans "by the end of 1999." Accolas refused to provide more information, demanding a list of questions in writing. She didn't return subsequent calls.

But another official said many companies will miss the new deadline, too. Yvon Bouchard, chief of the ministry's regional office in Chibougamau, said the last plans won't be filed until March 31, 2000.

A forestry economist who has worked for the Quebec government said some companies may be tempted to take advantage of the lack of cutting plans.

The new cutting plans are supposed to be more sensitive to sustainable development, said Luc Bouthillier, a forestry economist at Laval University.

But some companies could try to cut more before the new cutting plans come into effect, said Bouthillier, who was a provincial appointee on the James Bay Advisory Committee on the Environment.

"The real masters of the forest industry are the shareholders."

by Alex Roslin

ers. They don't care about good forestry.

"It's possible that the pressure for profits may justify decisions under the (existing) rules that won't be justified under the new rules," said Bouthillier.

Indeed, the government has just released figures that show loggers have dramatically increased their cutting in Northern Quebec. The volume of wood cut in Cree land was so high in 1997 it exceeded the maximum set by the government.

At the same time, fines levied against forestry companies for violating government regulations fell from a total of \$675,000 in 1995 to less than \$50,000 in 1997.

Quebec law requires forestry companies to file five-year cutting plans as part of their license to cut down trees.

Bouchard said provincial law allows the government to revoke a forestry company's license if it doesn't file its five-year plan on time, and the company can be ordered to stop cutting trees.

But the resources ministry is allowing the companies to keep on cutting across Quebec, including on Cree land.

A lawyer for the Crees said there doesn't appear to be anything in the law that allows the late cutting plans: "I haven't found any sections that said they were allowed to do that." The companies have not received any official extensions from the government.

The delay means the companies are also late filing their 25-year cutting plans, which are also required under provincial law. The

25-year plans are supposed to be updated at the time the five-year plans are renewed.

The need to reread

Letter to The Nation:

Wachiya! I read every issue of *The Nation*. It helps me understand the challenges and struggles of the Native communities. However, my reading enjoyment and understanding would increase if you would write only easily understood sentences in your articles.

I often need to reread some sections of your articles because you employ incorrect sentence structure and inappropriate words. The following is a list of sentences published in the October 22 issue which contain these two confusing elements. I have included possible correct versions (in parentheses).

WILLIAM NICHOLLS

"You had a group of people who use to be neighbors [sic] divided." (A group of individuals, who were once neighbors [sic], are now enemies.) -page 3

"By letting the situation get out of hand the Department of Oceans and Fisheries could step in with a harder negotiating

stance." (The Department of Oceans and Fisheries could solve the crisis by establishing firm negotiations with the concerned parties.) -page 3

ALEX ROSLIN

"To get the job he did what many before him couldn't. He unseated Walter Hughboy, who had been chief for 21 years." (Reggie Mark has become the new chief of Wemindji by attaining an accomplishment which no other person has ever attained. He amassed more votes than Walter Hughboy during the last election. His win terminates the 21-year reign of Walter Hughboy.) -page 23

"We caught up with him earlier this month." (We met him earlier this month.) -page 23

"The CBC will still control what goes on the air on them." (The CBC will still control the program content broadcasted on its transmitters.) -page 7

This list contains only a few of the confusing sentences published in the October 22 issue. I hope that you will write clear sentences in the next issues of *The*

Nation as to allow us, the readers, to understand your written messages. Please employ correct sentence structure (subject, adjective, verb, adverb, conjunction, complement), and appropriate words such as "was" (instead of "got") and "create" (instead of "want to come up" [with its own morning show]).

Writing manuals, dictionaries and multiple self-written drafts are reliable tools. They can assist you in conveying clear messages in your articles. Please allow us, the readers, understand [sic] your messages. It is in the best interest of all of us.

Thank you.

Reggie Belliveau
Kawawachikamach, Quebec



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Recovery in boat accident

Thirty-six days after the tragic boat accident that claimed eight lives near Moose Factory, the search ended with the finding of Johnny Namagoose's body.

It was recovered on November 5 at around 9:15 a.m. "Our prayers have been answered," said the Moose Factory search and rescue services in a press release.

Norm Wesley, coordinator of the search, had said his community would search until they recovered everyone.

The press release said there were no words to express the gratitude for the searchers' determination and commitment. It said the search effort was a testament to giving and sharing one another's burdens.

"We ask that everyone give thanks and that you continue to offer healing and comfort to the members of the families, especially the Namagoose and Katapaytuk families."

Good news in Mistissini search

Isaac Trapper and Abel Mark, a Mistissini elder, went up Mistissini Lake and a search was started after their wives reported to the police they were overdue.

They had left Mistissini on November 2. The search for the two men started on Monday, November 8. Initial aerial searches turned up no sign of the boat or the men. The search started with one helicopter. The next day, freezing rain forced the search off.

Trapper and Mark were located at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 10, in the Louis Jolliett area. They had gone up the lake to pick up snowmobiles and wanted to do a little hunting and fishing. According to reports, their outboard motor broke down on Friday.

To assist rescue workers, the two men walked to the other side of the Rupert River where they made a marker and addressed a letter to Matthew Shecapio who lives in that area. Trapper and Mark spent the night there without shelter. To keep warm they left a fire burning all night. The next day they went back to the boat and waited for rescue.

"They knew people would get worried and look for them," said Johnny Shecapio, of the Mistissini police. Both men are reported to be in good health.

continued on page 9



GUN INCIDENTS ON RISE IN MISTISSINI

Gun safety is a big topic in Mistissini these days as firearms incidents have risen sharply.

The latest occurred at 6:30 a.m. on November 6. According to Mistissini police, an argument occurred at a party and a man left. He went to his vehicle, took out a gun and fired in the direction of the house.

David Longchap was charged with careless use of a firearm on November 9 in relation to the incident.

Three other incidents have taken place in Mistissini in the past year involving people walking around with guns in an unsafe way. No one has been injured. Prior to the four incidents this year, the last such event was in 1992.

It's a problem other Cree communities have had to deal with also.

Mistissini police are patient when an incident takes place and talk to the perpetrator. Eventually, the person calms down and surrenders their weapon. In southern climes where rates of firearm incidents are higher, SWAT teams would be called out and the results would likely be different.

Even though the rise in incidents seems high, Mistissini police insist the community is safe.

"This isn't a usual problem for the police or the community," said Chief Constable Michael Petawabano.

He said his department is addressing the problem and there is no need for anyone to panic. It's not the type of problem Mistissini or other communities would like to see blown out of proportion.

Nemaska public-safety officer Matthew Wapachee said his

community went through the same type of problems five years ago. Nemaska's solution was to buy each residential household managed by the band council a gun cabinet and trigger locks for all the guns.

"It gave us safety and time to look for the actual problems behind firearm incidents so we could deal with them on a long-term basis," said Wapachee. "The tenants keep their guns in these cabinets."

Wapachee said Nemaska residents wanted to prevent accidents and to make sure kids wouldn't be playing with any guns that were just laying around.

Nemaska combined the plan with a wellness program that would deal with the problems behind the incidents.

Wapachee is getting ready to order some more cabinets as the community is growing.

Mistissini police have brought up the issue of gun control and the laws to the Mistissini Band Council, but haven't gone as far as asking the band to buy cabinets. "It's very clear that responsibility for guns rests with the owners," said Johnny Shecapio, an investigator with the Mistissini police.

In Wemindji, a week previous to the latest Mistissini incident, a minor picked up a gun and did a "walk-around."

Wemindji police say this sort of thing isn't common in their community and don't see it as a big problem at this time. "It just happened, but it's rare," said a resident.

The gun laws in Canada say trigger locks must be on all guns and ammunition must be stored separately in a locked location.

by Alex Roslin

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Peace party

Peace Party #1

Culver City, California: Blue Corn Comics, 1999

Peace Party comics rock! They feature a story from a Native American perspective.

Blue Corn Comics, which publishes Peace Party, says that as the smallest and most at-risk minority whose viewpoints are ignored, Native people need to give mainstream society a Native perspective.

Of course, this is hard as there are about 2,000 distinct Native cultures out there. But Blue Corn does an amazing job with Peace Party. They deliberately chose a comic book format because it is so popular. Not only that, Blue Corn points out, and rightly so, that most comic book heroes are tall, thin, often fair-skinned and fair-haired.

Blue Corn is running against the rules, so to speak, and doing it well. I was impressed with its message and style of presentation. This comic is a sure winner that doesn't

depend on senseless violence as the answer to life's problems. The characters react, but with thought and consideration.

The story is about two young Native men who, after hiking, have a car accident and during a period of unconsciousness meet a spirit who gives them powers. Their friend though is hurt and, when they try to get help, they come across gangsters killing someone. In the background is the disappearing water that is being sucked up by the mines. The people on the reservation are having a difficult time planting with the disappearing water. The stage is set as two ways of life collide. I'll leave you to read the rest but recommend it for all.

I can hardly wait for No. 2 in the series. I predict they will become collectors' items. Four autographed issues are \$18 U.S. (includes shipping and handling). Make cheque payable to: Blue Corn Comics, #204, 6150 Buckingham Pkwy., Culver City, CA, 90230. Website: < <http://members.xoom.com/peaceparty> >. -W.N.



BRIEFS continued from page 7

"No one was really worried," said one resident.

"If anyone knew what to do in the bush it was those two guys."

Correction

The CBC owns transmitters in two Cree communities, not six as reported in an article in the October 22 issue of *The Nation*. We'd also like to make a clarification.

Those two communities, Waskaganish and Waswanipi, are planning to buy their own transmitters, with some assistance from the James Bay Cree Communications Society.

The JBCCS signal will be sent on the Cree-owned transmitters, not on those of the CBC. Sorry for any confusion the article may have caused.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to pass on a request from the JBCCS. They are asking the readers to send in their views to *The Nation* about programming, the schedule and any other issues related to the new Cree radio network.

Guns, drugs and cold hard cash

by R.T. Naylor

Patriots and Profiteers: On Economic Warfare, Embargo Busting and State-Sponsored Crime

Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1999

We've all heard a lot about the war on drugs. But did you ever wonder who is really behind the drug industry? Is it just a bunch of greasy bikers and trigger-happy Mafia wiseguys? Or is there more to it?

The fact is a lot of the world's narco-profits go to finance rebel groups fighting corrupt governments in the poorest corners of the earth.

The heroin trade, for example, became the world's biggest business in the 1980s during the war in Afghanistan.

Uncle Sam pumped nearly \$1 billion into Afghanistan to train and arm thousands of half-crazed mercenaries to fight the Soviet-

backed government. But that still wasn't enough money to keep the action hot. So the CIA encouraged the Afghan rebels to earn some extra cash by exporting opium (which is used in making heroin).

Today, Afghanistan produces 57 percent of the world's opium crop. In the 1990s, heroin addiction became a serious problem for the country that played a big part in creating the problem. In the U.S., celebrities started dropping like flies from heroin overdoses, and addiction soared.

The little story of the CIA's heroin connection in Afghanistan is just one of hundreds in the latest book from one of Canada's most interesting writers and an old teacher of mine, Tom Naylor.

At McGill University, Naylor's classes are always packed with hundreds of students - strange for someone who teaches what

you'd think is a dry topic, economics.

Naylor's gift is making the nasty, real-life side of economics come alive. He revels in exposing how the rich and powerful take advantage of the rest of us suckers, stashing their wealth in secret offshore accounts, setting up front companies to hide their misdeeds, getting rich selling guns to corrupt dictatorships, etc.

His latest book, *Patriots and Profiteers*, is an amazing trip through the dangerous and mysterious worlds where spies, drug traffickers, arms dealers and bankers meet.

You will read about how South Africa's apartheid regime smuggled guns and oil. You will read about how a pirate helped the British turn the tide against the Spanish Empire in the 1500s. You'll also find out how arms dealers deliberately keep wars going longer so they can sell more weapons to both sides.

Along the way, your picture of the world may just get turned upside down. -A.R.

BOOKS

THE BEST OF JAMES BAY

Once again the Nation reader hath spake and out of its mouth gusheth forth true wisdom of what's best and worst in James Bay. Read on and receive some true learnin'

By the way, **Richard "Chino" Mark** won a gift certificate from Wachiya Store (cha-ching!) and two plane tickets anywhere in the known universe where Air Creebec travels.

Our Thanks to Air Creebec and Wachiya.

Best Community Contribution (Man)

1st place (tie)- Luke MacLeod and James A. Gunner

Best Community Contribution (Woman)

1st place- Jane Blacksmith

2nd place- Mabel Herodier

Most Outstanding Elder

1st- Billy Blacksmith

2nd- John Tent and Jackie Gull (tied)

3rd- Robbie Matthew

Most Outstanding Youth

1st- John Matoush

2nd- Ashley I. Iserhoff

Most Outstanding Tallyman

1st- Tommy Voyageur

2nd- Freddy Jolly

3rd- Fred Stewart

Honourable mention: Xavier Kataquapit



Joshua Iserhoff

Best Goose Plucker

1st- Eva Ratt

Honourable mention: all wives

Best Hunter

1st- Tommy Voyageur

2nd (3-way tie)- Redfern Cheezo, Charlie Iserhoff, Wally Saganash

Best Fisher

1st (tie)- Stanley Mianscum and Roger Orr

Best Storyteller

1st (tie)- John Tent and Robbie Matthew Sr.

Honourable mention: Drunks in Desmaraisville

Best Square Dancer

1st (4-way tie)- Gordon Saganash, Jamie Moses, John Wapachee, Joshua Iserhoff

Honourable mention: Nemaska

Best Looking Community

1st- Ouje-Bougoumou

2nd- Mistissini

3rd- Nemaska



Freddy Jolly

Cree Closest to Sainthood

1st- No one yet/ no one's perfect/ nobody in particular/ are there any?

2nd- Neil Diamond

Honourable mention: O.J.

Sexiest Cree

1st (tie)- Raymond Shanoush, Maudie Visitor

Honourable mention: Farrah Fawcett, all women in thigh-high boots, haven't seen one yet, my ex's (shhh...)

Best Dressed Cree

1st- Joshua Iserhoff

2nd (tie)- Kenny Loon, Catherine Ottereyes Sr.

Honourable mention: myself, Neil Diamond, The Nation, Cst. in uniform

Best Cree Media (person or organization)

1st- The Nation

2nd- Roderick Rabbitskin

Honourable mention: Nemaska

Best Cultural Contribution

1st (3-way tie)- Cree Trappers' Association, Robbie Matthew Sr., Thomas Coon

Honourable mention: Journey Through the Heart of the Land, huh?

Best Artist

- 1st- Timmy Whiskeychan
2nd- Margaret Orr
3rd- Glenna Matoush



Willie Mitchell

Best Cree Musician

- 1st- Robert Bobbish
2nd (tie)- Sam Mianscum's group,
Willie Mitchell

Best Coach

- 1st (tie)- Clyde Bunn and Kenny
Wapachee

Best Cook

- 1st (tie)- Elaine Trapper (Fritou),
Mom, Anna Metabie (Mist.
arena)
2nd- Jean-Paul Beauregard
Honourable mention: all tradi-
tional Cree cooks

Best School

- 1st- Voyageur Memorial School
2nd- Willie J. Happyjack Memo-
rial School, Ecole Luke
Mettaweskum
Honourable mentions: Mistissini
haha!!, Life

Best Teacher

- 1st- Vince Riccio
2nd- Jacques Larouche, Metha
Bos
Honourable mention: all Cree
teachers

Best Athlete

- 1st- Stephanie Mianscum
2nd- Kenny Gunner
3rd (tie)- Wally Rabbitskin, Jimmy
Gunner
Honourable mention: Waswanipi
fire department

Best Band Council

- 1st- Mistissini
2nd- Waswanipi
3rd- Nemaska
Honourable mentions: Chateau
Louis, none

Best Politician

- 1st- Dr. Matthew Coon Come
2nd- Matthew Mukash, Dr. Ted
Moses

**Best Checkers/Chess
Player**

- 1st (tie)- Philip Jolly, David
Blackned
Honourable mention: who plays
chess? Out of style (1960s)



Matthew Coon Come

Best Pool Player

- 1st (tie)- Bobby Blacksmith,
Arthur Kitchen, Smally Brien
Honourable mentions: No pools
exist in community

Nicest Smile

- 1st- Farrah Cheezo
Honourable mentions: My grand-
mother, someone who brushes
with Aquafresh, someone with
dimples and nice teeth

Funniest Cree

- 1st (tie)- Rubber Boots, Bentley
Mianscum
Honourable mention: Will
Nicholls, written in: Funniest
Road - Mistissini, happiness

Best Nickname

- 1st- Boots
2nd- Boodoo
Honourable mentions: Doo Doo,
Chino, Sandla, Mr. Jive, Nosey,

Aleccoobee, Beh-Beh, Boo-Boo,
Shoe boy, Kanadiyou, Hammer,
Motor, Jib-boo, Stud Master, Ka-
na-na-tah-you

Coollest Vehicle

- 1st- Waswanipi fire truck (4x4)
2nd- Anne Marie's Cadillac,
Philip Swallow, Luigi Albert
(Batmobile, Luigi-mobile)
Honourable mention: Violet
Bates' "buggy," Roger Orr's Boxy
Babe, Will's car (if he has one)



John Tent

Worst

(make your own category)

- Vehicle - Luigi Gull's Batmobile
Vehicle - Station wagon
Nickname - Peanuts
Vehicle - Bob Patton (Suburban)
Thing - politics
Pickup line - Hey, how about a
quick drive to the lagoon?
Road - Mistissini to Chibougamau
Tournament - Ouje-Bougoumou
Building - CINI-FM
Cree Role Model - former chief
John Kitchen
The real picture of our commu-
nities, the B.S.
Vehicle - Nemaska's Air Creebec
Boxy Babe (Roger Orr)

Best Pickup Line

- What time is it?
Can I buy you a round?
Shwwwwing
1-800-stupix
Veut-tu coucher avec moi?
Hey, bay-bee
Leaving already! Where ya going?
Where do you come from?
Why don't you ditch the b*tch
and make a switch!!
Dodge K

Do you know...?

You were watching me
Have we met before?

Do you have \$2 for a good cause?
Want a beer?

And our favourite one: Is The
Nation in?



James Gunner

Best Expression (Slang)

- 1st- Na!
Mmmm, beer
Cha-ching
Aah wheh saa!
Eh!
Eeh! Embarrassing
Eeeeeeee...
Ou-wah!! (Chisasibi)
Holy cow!
Naah!
Aaah!!
Sshea!
Nah nah
Out of my way jack*ss!!
Buzz
Nedeha!
Neh!



Kenny & John Gunner

More on page 13



Job Posting: Ombudsman

The Waswanipi Cree First Nation Council is presently seeking a resourceful and a highly motivated individual for the position of an Ombudsman.

The responsibility of the Ombudsman is to receive and investigate complaints made by individual community members against unlawful, unreasonable, unfair, arbitrary, erroneous or inefficient acts of public officials regarding community issues. He/she will also investigate complaints from the community members and seek achievable and peaceful remedies and solutions to community issues.

The Ombudsman is a nonpartisan. He/she may not be involved in the political system. He/she will act independently and will report to Council and General Assembly.

Employment Requirements:

The applicant must have a two year college Diploma or University program or two to four years related experience; good organizational and administrative skills; or the equivalent combination of education and experience.

Must be able to speak Cree and English, French would be an asset; Ability to write business correspondence and must have strong communication skills.

Must have good character and community relations.

Place of Work:

Waswanipi Cree First Nation Government Office

Status: Full Time

Starting Date: April 1, 2000

Salary: According to qualifications and the salary scale

Posting Date:

October 25 to December 3, 1999

Submit applications to:

**Chief Paul Gull
Waswanipi Cree First Nation
Dion Blacksmith Building
JOY 3C0**

LES MINES INMET

Inmet Mining Corporation
Troilus Division

Posting #073: Instrumentation Technician (Permanent) (Maintenance)

The Troilus Division is presently searching for a Instrumentation Technician (Permanent) (Maintenance) to join their young and dynamic management team. The Troilus Division is a gold and copper open pit mine with a mill capacity that has been upgraded to 15,000 tpd. The mine site is located at 175 km north of Chibougamau by way of the "Route du Nord." The selected candidate will work on a 7-7 schedule (7 days of work, 7 days off) and will be lodged at the site's first quality camp.

Required qualifications:

The candidate must have completed a two (2) year college program in industrial instrumentation technology and have two to three (2-3) years experience in an industrial process environment. Trade certification is an asset. Knowledge of "Modicon" programmable automat. Knowledge of interface "operator." Good working knowledge of French. Basic knowledge of English.

Main responsibilities:

- Consults manufacturer's manuals to determine tests and maintenance procedures for instruments used for measuring and controlling flow, level, pressure, temperature and other variables in mineral processing;
- Inspects and tests instruments and systems to diagnose faults;
- Repairs and adjusts system components or removes and replaces defective parts;
- Performs scheduled preventive maintenance work and completes test and maintenance reports;
- Installs new control instruments on existing plant equipment;
- Must have hands on experience with PLC;
- Will be required to work on a 600 Volt, 4.160 kV;
- Performs other related duties.

Particularities and remuneration:

Inmet Mining Corporation offers a competitive salary. The position is addressed to men and women. Inmet Mining Corporation encourages the hiring of Crees and thanks all applicants for their interest, but advises that only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Those interested are to send their Curriculum vitae, not later than

December 10, 1999 to:

**Human Resources Department
Inmet Mining Corporation
Troilus Division
P.O. Box 8700
Chibougamau (Quebec)
G8P 3A9**

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1st- Le Baron
2nd- Sport Expert (Rouyn)
3rd- Mario Monger

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1st- Podium
2nd- Sport Expert (Rouyn)
3rd- Gilbert Sports

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2nd- Bar-B-Barn

Best Hamburger

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1st- Pizza Hut
2nd- Mike's

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1st- Chateau Inn
2nd- Chateau Louis

Rowdiest Bar

1st- Chateau Louis
2nd- Bar Central

Best Hotel

1st- Sheraton Centre
2nd (tie)- Confortel, L'Escale, Continental

Best Snowmobile Dealer

1st- Ou J'ai des Sports
2nd- Mario Monger

Best Auto Dealer

1st- Aubé
2nd (tie)- Hardy Ringuette, Veillette & Johnson
3rd- Gareau

Best Airline

1st- Air Creebec
2nd- Canadian

Best Grocery Store

1st- Metro
2nd- Meechum

Best Toy Store

1st- Toys 'R' Us
2nd- Dollarama

Best Children's Clothes

1st- The Gap for Kids
2nd- Au coin des petits

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2nd- St. Hubert Street Plaza

Best Flower Shop

1st- Diane Fleuriste
2nd- Mother Nature

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2nd- Bijouterie Baribeau

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2nd- IKEA
3rd- Meubles Sélections

Best Gift Shop

1st- Hallmark
2nd- Wal-Mart
3rd- Wachiya

Best Movie

1st- Titanic

Best Rock Band/Musician

Some of your favourites: Iron Maiden, Bryan Adams, CCR, Jimmy Page, Chief Shepherd Band, Chiistin, Def Leppard

Best Book

1st- The Bible Other favourites: Chicken Soup... Never Without Consent (GCCQ), Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee, The Cat in the Hat

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New Day at the Health Board

After years of stalled negotiations, the Cree Health Board has made a breakthrough toward starting some serious talks with the Quebec government on underfunding and health reform. The two sides have agreed on the framework for negotiations that are to start later this month. The talks are intended to fulfill the forgotten promises of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, and to bring Cree health and social services up to par.

Bertie Wapachee, the health board's new chairman, dropped by our office on the day of the signing (Nov. 10) to tell us all about it, and bring us up to speed on the new era the health board has entered. "It was a beautiful day today," he said. "Today was a big day for the Crees as a whole, and certainly a big day for the Cree Health Board. I'm sure a lot of people will be happy to see something is moving."

Wapachee said the health board has gone from being the most neglected of all the Cree entities to one of the most important priorities of the Cree Nation today. Big changes are in the wind. "The fun has just started," he said. "It's a whole new ballgame now."

-Alex Roslin

The Nation: So you had some pretty good news last summer from the Cree Health Board. How did you feel when they asked you to be the new chairman?

Bertie Wapachee: I guess on the one hand, it was a big honour for me to step in the shoes of an old friend. I'm talking about the late James A. Shecapio. It is a big honour to continue where he left off. The other part was it was nice to come back to serving the Cree people. I finally get the chance to take up a bigger challenge. It's a \$30-million-plus organization. It's gone through some tough times over the years. I guess I felt I could do something in there. I'm a very ambitious person. It's the challenge that drove me to accept the title. It's been a good challenge so far, a big one. It's a big responsibility, and I love it. I just love it.

You took a year off after leaving the Cree Nation Youth Council, where you were the Youth Grand Chief. What do you think you gained from this time?

Well, I certainly feel older. I finally got the chance to go through what a father is supposed to go through - everyday life. It's a new beginning for me, being part of the health board and also having a new baby boy a month after. I got a chance to be a father to my children. I got a chance to be a husband to my wife, a friend to my wife. Just to have that chance to be a family man is something special that came out of this whole year. It did a lot of things for me. I got the chance to go fishing quite a bit, and that's something I missed. Like I said, I feel older. I've grown up.

Now that you're at the health board, you said you have a lot of ambitions. What is it you'd like to do there?

It's more than just one reason. There are so many reasons why I wanted to be a part of the health board. On one hand, we know



there are a lot of social issues that are growing so rapidly. In so many ways, we're burning out our employees. There isn't much staff to take care of the people's needs. On top of that, concerning the health issues, there's so much that people need to be aware of. People need to know what kinds of diseases are out there, what kinds of health issues in general are out there.

Talking about ambitions, overall, it's to bring the organization to the highest level - to meet as many of the needs of the Crees as it can, from children all the way to the elderly. These people need those services, they need those programs, and they need the proper care. That's something our board will need to bring to the Crees.

You were saying earlier that you thought the Cree Health Board was the neglected entity of all the Cree entities until recently. What did you mean by that?

I'm sure some people are aware of this, but I think it's something everybody should know. The Cree Health Board is a 24-hour service. It deals with each and every individual Cree across the Cree territory, even down south, no matter where they are. If there are 12,000 Crees, the Cree Health Board deals with every one of them 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The demand is always going to escalate. It's got to go through its evolution each year to make sure different needs are being met as they arise.

Ever since I've been part of the health board, that's the first thing I felt - we are the neglected Cree entity. It shouldn't be that way. One of the main things we look after in our own lives is our health. To be healthy, you've got to take care of your social issues, your health issues, you've got to do all these things to have a healthy lifestyle. It goes to your families too, it goes to your communities, it goes to your nation.

With the health board, I kind of feel for the organization. It's never really had the opportunity to grow. It's never been given that opportunity with Section 14 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (the section dealing with health services -Ed.) not being implemented to the fullest. That part made the health board grow at the same pace right from the beginning. All it's been is a crisis-management organization for so many years.

I guess the Cree leadership never really took the time to take a good look at it, and pay closer attention to it. But that has changed. It's been a big change, especially with the new leadership we have. The Cree Health Board is becoming one of their priorities. That's what we need. That's what the health board needed right from the beginning. After 20 years, it's finally becoming a priority to the Cree leadership. It's a big change.

You were saying one of the problems is the level of funding has remained almost unchanged for 20 years. That must have had a huge effect on the health board's ability to deliver services.

"The health board was a neglected organization for a long time."

It's been, I would say, one of the main obstacles. It could be the main obstacle over the years. If you look back at 1978, the budget started off at the \$28-million mark. If it was indexed to inflation the way it was supposed to be, I'd say right now it would probably be around the \$75-million mark. That's not the case here. Starting from the \$28-million mark, the health board's budget today is around \$32 million. So I guess you could say we're underfunded. We know we need more money for more services, but we don't have that. I hope that's something we can change.

There was the assembly on health issues a few months ago in Ouje-Bougoumou, where people had a lot of concerns and there was a lot of talk about the Cree Health Board. From being at the health board and being part of the community, what do you think people's concerns are? What would they like to see it become that it isn't now?

The report that came from that assembly was probably one of the best documents you can use today. It comes from the people. As a Cree, I know for a fact there are some areas where the health board is lacking, whether it's services, whether it's programs - like one in particular, home care. That's one we truly need for people who need special services. There are so many issues that surround the health board. Everybody keeps saying it's not providing proper services, and I can agree with that. I certainly could concur with the concerns people had at that assembly.

I was pretty happy with that report actually, because it brought me a perspective coming from the people. It was a good start for me, reading that report and seeing what people thought of the health board. I can't argue with what they said. Everything they said in that report is correct. We need to start working from that. Whoever had that idea to have that assembly is the health board's best friend.

Do you feel like it made a difference inside the health board, with how the people who work there do their job?

I guess our workers can argue they weren't fully involved during that assembly. I was pretty happy with it. But it's not all. There are some things that are probably missing. There are some other concerns in the communities we don't hear every day. I think what that report did for the health board is it brought the health board on the Cree map. I think it was an important assembly.

A couple of the communities started their own healing centres - Waskaganish and Nemaska. Do you think they were trying to fill a void in the social services they thought weren't being delivered?

As a Cree person, I can understand, and I can certainly relate to those people who did that. As a member of the health board, again, I can understand. I don't blame those people for doing what they feel should be done. I'm actually pretty proud of them to make that move, to start those groups. As a member of the board, I guess I'm pretty open to seeing people get more involved in social or health issues in the communities. Whether they form their own groups, it doesn't matter to me - as long as they work with the people, including the health board.

I think that's what's missing here, what's been missing for a long time. When I said the health board was a neglected organization for a long time, it was never given a chance to work with the communities. The only thing it ever got was to become a crisis-management organization. But now things are starting to change. There's a whole new outlook. And I think we'll come to that point soon, where we'll discuss where can the communities get involved when it comes to social and health issues.

As chairperson, I'm pretty open to that. I like seeing that. I don't think the health board can do miracles at this time. If communities decide to start their own wellness groups or committees, then go ahead. I'll be happy to see that. It's one thing for people to realize - this is no longer the Indian Affairs syndrome. We have to do away with the dependency - give me this, give me that. That's it. Enough of that.


What we need to do as Cree people is we have to start working together. That's the most important thing. I think that's one thing that's been missing for a while, and it's just now starting to come back. I think the new leadership will bring that. I'm hoping the new members of the Cree Health Board can bring that to the Cree communities as well.

I understand there was an important agreement signed today with the Quebec government.

It was a beautiful day today, actually. A few years back, there was an attempt to try and set up a table with the Quebec government to talk about the issues the health board was going through. It was a close call. They got (Health Minister Jean) Rochon to agree to sign the terms-of-reference (to start negotiations). Just before he signed, he was shuffled off to another department. Starting from 1995, when the health board asked the Grand Council for assistance to get the Health Ministry at a table to discuss the needs of the Cree Health Board, there have been so many exchanges with the government.

Just recently, the government decided to propose an agreement with the Cree Health Board. But it was just another tie-up ceremony.

Cont'd on page 17



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If we had signed that agreement, we would have been tied up in more government policies and regulations. They agreed to take care of our past deficits, but that's all. That's not what we want today. So the health board decided to step away from that.

When I became chair, there was already a process that was begun (to start new negotiations with Quebec). The person who was leading it was Abel Bosum (former O.J. chief). That process partially came from the O.J. assembly. This summer, after more discussions, they finally agreed to some new terms-of-reference. That's basically to say what will be discussed at the table, and how we're going to do it.

Today was a big day for the Crees as a whole, and certainly a big day for the Cree Health Board. We got a faxed copy of the terms-of-reference signed by Pauline Marois (the new health minister). I was pretty happy, and I'm sure a lot of people will be happy to see something is moving. Like I said, it was a beautiful day.

This would be for negotiations to implement the things that were promised 20 years ago?

Not only those things. It's also a time to review what would be acceptable today. Some things in the James Bay Agreement have never been implemented. This table will give both parties a chance to sit down and talk about what they think Section 14 means. At the same time, to talk about how they can bring the Cree Health Board up to par, hopefully bring it to the \$75-million mark. That's my dream. I'm not going to talk away from the health board under \$75 million. (laughter)

Is there anything else you wanted to say?

I want to thank the board for really pushing things to go. We have a pretty good team now. That's something that's been missing in the health board, the political edge. Now we have three former chiefs in there as new members. That combination helps the health board have that political edge. That's what's good about it. Everybody

seems to want to go in the same direction. That's something we need to have. You need to have people think the same way you think, to go in the same direction you're going. That's the best.

Other than that, I'm back and I think it's going to be a lot of fun for the health board. Certainly, it's going to be something to look forward to. This whole process, it's not something I'm going to back away from. It's something I know, and I feel it needs to happen. It shouldn't stop anywhere. The government should not shuffle anybody else. There shouldn't be any political moves or tactics to stall the process. It should be based on what our people need. Our priority at the board is bringing the best service for the entire Cree Nation.

One other thing is we need Cree professionals at the health board - Cree doctors, Cree dentists, more Cree nurses. In 10 years, I hope we will see the first Cree doctors. The youth should start thinking about this now as they plan their education.

I'd also like to say there are people in the organization who have been around for a long time and who kept the organization alive. I'm pretty proud to work with those people, and it's a big honour to have people that committed to stabilize the organization, even when it was underfunded. These people have seen crisis almost every other day, and they need to be honoured in some way. I think Mr. James Bobbish needs a pat on the back for all the things he's done, and keeping things intact. That's one of the best things to have - to have people that committed. I hope this can rejuvenate him, and that this new agreement will bring what he always wanted to bring into the organization. Of course, there are others - so many people who have been around for a long time. I'm hoping they'll stick around a little longer because the fun has just started. I just wanted to say I'm proud of all of them for hanging around this long. It's a whole new ballgame now, and I hope they'll look forward to seeing those changes.

I guess that's all I need to say, and to tell all my friends hello and I'm back.

Ekuuda. Thank you.

Roger St-Amand
Owner

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(Updating the Forest System: Consultation Document, Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources, September 1998)

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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)



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Cree Regional Authority
Administration Régionale Cris

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Survival Story

Told by John Blackned

*Many people in southern Iiyuuschii still remember Richard Preston. As a young anthropologist, Preston came up to live with the Crees in the mid-1960s. He observed the Cree culture at work in the bush, and recorded many great stories, events, and the Elders and hunters of the day. His observations were published in his 1976 graduate thesis, *Cree Narrative: Expressing the Personal Meanings of Events*.*

Preston, now a professor emeritus at McMaster University, has graciously agreed to let us reprint one of the stories. -Ed.

This is another story about a very old man. He was older than the man who ate his moosehide pants. The only way he could walk was with a cane. He depended on a stick for a cane. If the people don't have any food, they don't travel very far but move more often. That is why they decided to leave the old man behind. They would rather leave him behind than wait for his death. They said to the old man, "We are leaving you behind. Don't bother coming." The old man did not try to go.

He thought, "I guess this is the last time I will see winter." They left him behind. He did not have any food. The people had hung fish baits on a tree. He started collecting these old fish baits. He had a gun. They did not take his gun away. Also, he had the coverings on his tent.

He tried hunting for partridges, although he used a cane. He tried to fish. Finally, he managed to fish. Sometimes he would hunt for partridges. He would make new trails to hunt for partridges. He was able to kill enough to eat. At last, he could kill very little.

It was long ago, when his Mistabeo left him, as his Mistabeo had said to him, "I am going to leave you." He had asked his Mistabeo, "Why do you leave me? You came to me, I didn't go to you. I will ask you once more to come to me. When I am starving, I want you to come to me." His Mistabeo had told him, "You think you will always be a good hunter and will not starve."

Finally, he could not walk. Then, he started melting snow from inside his tent for water. He had rebuilt his tent in an area with a lot of trees, he thought, "I guess this is where I will lie, nobody will be able to prepare me for my death." All he did was sleep, sleep, as he did not have any food. He was lying down for two days already, and it was over 10 days that he did not eat.

When he woke up, it was daylight. He thought, "I still can see another day." He thought, "Maybe, this is my last day." He was not asleep as he was just lying there. He made a fire. He still had some firewood inside his tent. He had closed his door.



John Blackned with Richard Preston in 1964

Then he heard someone at the door of his tent. Here was his Mistabeo. He thought, "I guess this is his visit when I told him to see me once more." He thought, "I don't know why he came to see me because I am going to starve now." His Mistabeo asked him, "Why are you lying there?" He answered him, "I haven't eaten for a long time, that is why I am lying like this."

He had tried to go hunting in the area where the partridges would be plentiful, but he had not seen any partridges.

His Mistabeo said to him, "If you go east, straight ahead, there is someone there who wants to see you. There are a lot of women there too, who would like to see you. Here you are lying down like this!"* He answered back, "How could I see them because I haven't eaten and I can't move?" His Mistabeo told him, "Why can't you walk? Look, here is a partridge outside your tent on a tree," as Mistabeo opened the door of his tent. He sat up. He thought, "I am not going to make a fire." As soon as Mistabeo told him about the partridges outside his tent, his Mistabeo went out.

con't on page 20

Mistabeo had told him that he was sure he saw two partridges outside his tent. The old man had already prepared a hole in his tent for his gun. He had tied his gun to one of the tent poles. He thought his gun would rot. He hated to see it rot as he was very fond of holding it. He tried to get up, he was able to move. He thought he was sure he would be able to go out. He had crawled around before he could get up.

His Mistabeo had never told him a lie. He went out. As he opened the door of his tent, he thought, "I am going to look for the meat" (partridges in the trees). As he went out, he saw a partridge on a tree close by. Quickly, he took his gun. It was loaded. He shot it. As he shot it, he fell back. At least, he could see that he killed it as it came down from the tree. He saw another partridge. He took his partridge and his gun inside his tent so he could load his gun. He took his gun out again. He shot the other partridge very well, as he did not eat for a long time. He took his other partridge and started to pluck it. He thought, "Now I can have food in me." As he was looking around, he saw another partridge. He thought, "Mistabeo never told me about the third partridge." He loaded his gun again. He shot it and, again, he fell back. He tried to stand still. He went to get his third partridge. Then, he started to cook, only one partridge. He ate half of it.

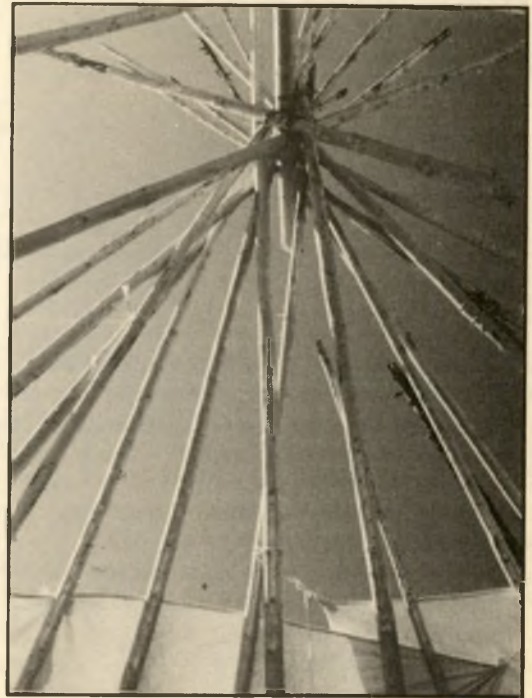
He thought, "I am going to try and put my snowshoes on." He thought, "There is no reason why I can't walk, because I ate." Sure, he was able to walk as he carried his gun. He was walking around hunting for partridges. He saw other partridges. He killed a lot of partridges. He thought, "I will be able to walk better again." He thought, "I will be able to go and see the person who wanted to see me." (His Mistabeo had told him that he would be able to kill a lot of meat.)

His Mistabeo had told him before of the place where someone was awaiting him (where there was a porcupine up in a tree). He thought, "I will not go there right away, I will try to go tomorrow." He thought to himself, "If I eat again, I will have a lot more strength in my legs." The next morning, he started on his way. As he was walking, here, he reached a porcupine up in a tree. He killed it. He left it there. He went on again. His Mistabeo had told him that those who wanted to see him were out on a lake, a small lake, not a very big one, that is where they are.

As he walked on, he recognized a lake. Here, there were a lot of caribou gathering around. He started to count them, as when he used to hunt caribou, he would always count them. Of course, he had his bullets with him. The reason he took his gun was when his Mistabeo told him that someone is waiting for him, he thought he referred to more than one someone waiting for him.

Then he started going to where the caribou would be closer. There were 20 of them. As soon as he was close, he started to shoot them. Again, he fell back. As he went on shooting, he fell back after every shot. He tried to stand still but he fell back. He tried very hard to stand still. At last, he killed them all. He started to work on them. He managed to cover them up, close to the shore. He took a little of the meat to take home as he still remembered his porcupine and partridges.

He decided he would move to the lake and rebuild his tent there. As he was working on his caribou meat, his Mistabeo talked to him. His Mistabeo said to him, "They don't have anything, the ones that left you. You have been given a lot of meat, although you are alone. Really, they don't have anything. You can't hardly see their faces. They are always very short of food. Sometimes, they don't eat for



two or three days. You only didn't have food for a short time." This happened around the last of February. He went home with the meat of the caribou that he carried home, he had a feast for himself. He also had some caribou fat. Then he moved to the lake.

He did not have a lot of tent-coverings and so he used a lot of boughs. He cleaned all of the caribou meat. He made fat from all of the marrow of the bones. It took him a long time, as he was alone. Finally, he knew that spring was coming and that he would stay there until summer.

Where he left his canoe for the winter, he saw another canoe before his canoe. He was closer to the other canoe than his canoe. While he was working on his meat, he could see the geese flying. He always saw the spring birds and ducks. He was very pleased when he saw the flying of geese, ducks and other birds. He had been sure he was going to starve to death. At last, he had all of his caribou meat dried.

He thought he would not stay where they used to stay in the spring. He was in a different place. He thought he would not bring his canoe yet. He thought, "When they reach my canoe and see it, they will be positive that I am dead."

He started to move again. He moved all of his meat. His Mistabeo had told him, "Not one of them will have killed any deer when they see you again." He had also told him that all of the meat that was supposed to be given to them was all given to him.

When the people finally came for their canoes, the old man's canoe was still there. The people are not sure that he is dead. They paddled back from their hunting grounds. The old man's canoe was still at the same place where they left it. Now the people were very sure that the old man was dead. They were paddling for awhile, and they saw a smoke at the point. They all wondered, "Who can it be?"

The old man had rebuilt his food-storage stand (cache) in a place where it could be easily seen from a distance. They did not think he was the old man, they thought he was another person.

The old man had enlarged his tent. When he saw them, he entered his tent and watched them from a hole in his tent. Finally, he heard them coming to shore. He did not move. At last, he could hear their footsteps to his tent. Finally they opened the door. They all asked him, "What kind of a stranger are you, not to come down to meet visitors?" The old man answered them, "I am the stranger who you left behind to starve to death." He started to laugh after he answered them. He said to them, "Here I am sitting here; you all thought I would starve to death."

All of the Indians were very surprised. They had thought he would starve to death as he was not able to move or hunt.

He said to them, "Come on in, come on in. Well, come in." His Mistabeo had told him that the people would be coming back. He had cooked some meat. He said to them, "Go in, go in." He asked them to tell a story of all the happenings since they had left him.

They told him that they were sure that they were going to die as they did not have any food. He told them that he was like that too as he was alone trying to hunt. He started to dish out the meat from his kettle. He started to feed them.

He said to them, "This is from the person who you left behind and thought he would starve to death." After he gave them some

food, he told them that they thought he would not be able to survive and also that he was not capable of hunting. He said to them, "Now, tell me a story of the number of caribou you killed." They answered him, "We did not kill a single caribou." He said to them, "I only remember hunting for caribou once, but there were 20 of them." They were all very surprised, wondering how he could possibly hunt, what with the poor condition he was in when they left him.

He told them to enlarge his tent. They all helped enlarge his tent. Finally, he had a big feast. He said to them, "I will not be satisfied until we eat all of the meat I have. Then I will know that it was not wasted. You should be sorry for leaving me behind. If you did not leave me behind, you could have been all feeding on this meat all winter. Never leave me behind again until I die. Never leave me again. If I starve to death for leaving me behind, if I starve to death, you all will starve to death, too. I did not say anything to you when you left me. I only thought that I probably will not starve since they left me to starve."

After all of his meat was eaten, he stopped having feasts. They started to live with him until his death after that.

*Note here that references to persons are Cree metaphors referring to animals that are desirable for food.

Québec

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du Québec

NOUVEAU BUREAU

Le Curateur public du Québec est heureux d'annoncer l'ouverture, le 15 novembre 1999, d'une nouvelle Direction territoriale qui, avec son point de service de Trois-Rivières, desservira, les régions de Laval, des Laurentides, de Lanaudière, de la Mauricie, de l'Outaouais, de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue et du Nord-du-Québec. Ce bureau sera situé au :

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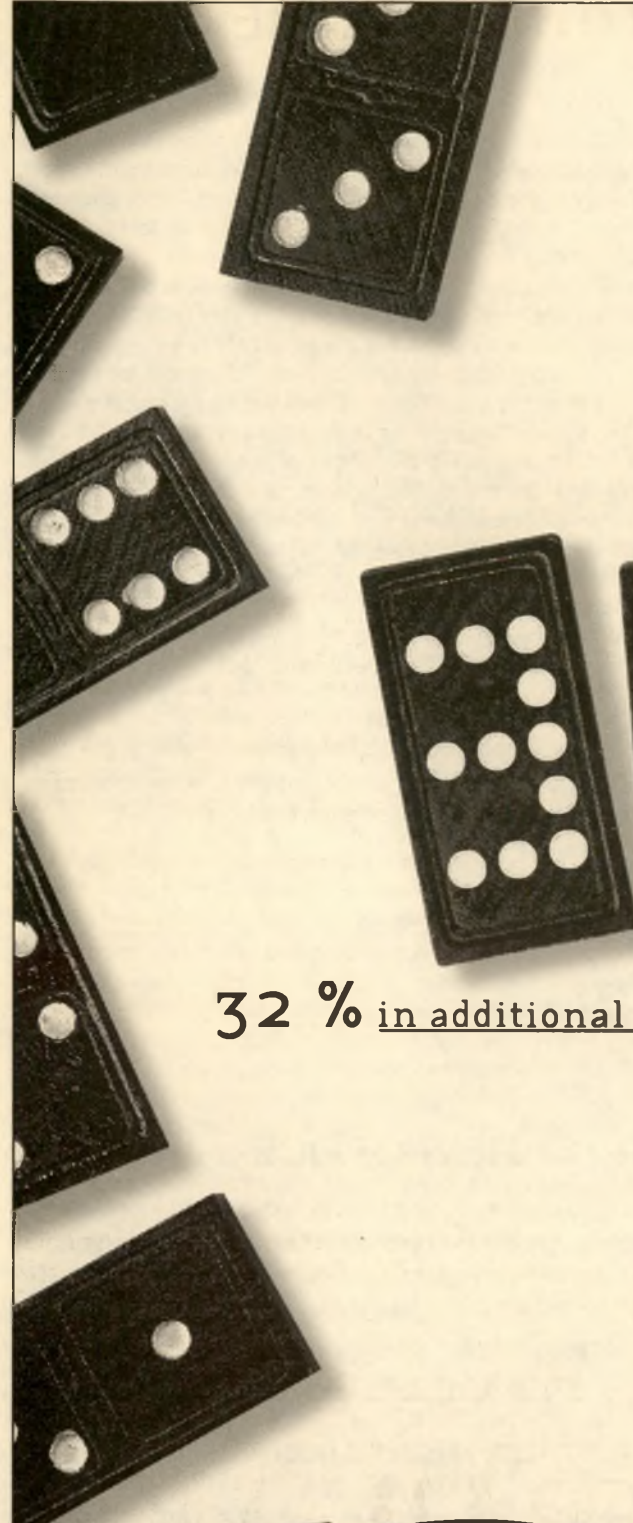
NEW OFFICE

The Public Curator of Québec is pleased to announce the opening on November 15, 1999, of a new regional office to serve, with its service outlet in Trois-Rivières, the Laval, Laurentians, Lanaudière, Mauricie, Outaouais, Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Nord-du-Québec regions. This office will be located at:

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WE WILL REMEMBER

Xavier Kataquapit

This is dedicated to my great-grandfather John Chookomolin who, with 23 other young Crees from Attawapiskat, went off to war in the summer of 1917. He never returned and until only a few years ago his family had never known his fate. I am giving him a voice with these words.

Why am I here? What is all this about? This is like a bad dream. I am sick and I have been in this room in bed since I arrived in this strange land. There are many men in beds here like myself but they are all white. My Cree friends from home have disappeared and I don't know where they have gone. No one understands my language and I don't understand them. The sound of coughing is steady, night and day. Sometimes, when I manage to sleep, I go home to the shores of Weeneebek (James Bay), where I see my wife and my little girl in our Meegwam (wigwam) by the banks of the river. When I awake it makes me sad to see this strange place and I feel like I will not see my land and my people again.

It all started many months ago in our summer gathering place on the banks of the Attawapiskat River. A Mish-tik-o-sho, a soldier man who came from the south by canoe, asked all the young men to go with him. The local priest who always spoke and translated for everyone was not in the community, and we had a hard time understanding what this soldier man wanted. There were a few people who knew some of his language and we concluded that he wanted us to go with him to help a Kitchi-Okimaw (great Chief) in need. We spoke with the Elders and it was agreed that 24 of us would leave with the soldier man to help the Kitchi-Okimaw.

A few days after his arrival all of us young men accompanied the soldier man in nine canoes for the journey south. We traveled by way of the salt water Weeneebek and went inland at the Albany River. From there we traveled the river system and arrived at Pagwa River. The voyage down these rivers took many weeks and we did not have

a lot of food with us. We had to make do with very little, and each day we trapped and hunted small game for supper. We were not well-prepared for this mysterious trip to the south. When we reached the rail stop at Pagwa we were ragged, tired and hungry.

At Pagwa, there was a small house beside an iron trail that the soldier man called the rail road. We waited for a long time until we heard and then saw the great iron sled. We had never seen such a thing before. The soldier man told us this iron sled would take us farther south. Once all of us were seated on this great sled we were very surprised as it moved slowly down the tracks.

Months after we left home we still wondered what the Kitchi-Okimaw needed us for. We arrived finally at a camp with hundreds of men. Our soldier man took us to a place where we got new clothes, new boots, a gun and a steel hat.

In the days that followed we were taught the ways of the white man in doing battle. Now we knew among ourselves what the Kitchi-Okimaw needed us for. We were going to Ma-shee-keh-win (war).

After months of training at the camp we boarded the iron sled again and traveled many days. Finally we arrived at the shores of Kichi-Kamee (big water). Here we were put on a huge steel Cheeman (boat) with hundreds of other men. We could understand little of what they said and we kept to ourselves.

I was not feeling well but then again no one was as the Cheeman bounced in the great waves of this Kichi-Kamee. Soon I could hardly breathe and I was weak. When the great Cheeman reached land I was carried away from my friends to a place of many medicine men. This was a busy and strange place the white men called England.

I am sick in this place and I know now I will never see my land and my people again. I want to go home. Please it is time now to take me back to Weeneebek.



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CLASSIFIEDS

100 BIRTHS

Congratulations to my brother Byron Jonah and Isabelle Nat. on the birth of their baby boy, born on August 31, 1999. Named Simon Joseph William. Take good care of my little nephew. With love, Amanda (in Waskaganish)

Congratulations to Isabelle and Byron on the safe arrival of their adorable son, Simon Joesph William. Born on August 31, 1999, at 4:20 p.m., in Val D'or, Quebec. Take care of little "Neepadagabou". From Mom and Dad (Myrna and David), Alexandra (auntie), and David Jr. (uncle), and also from George and Ruthie Sealhunter and family

Sending our best wishes and congratulations to our friend, Betty on the birth of her chubby little son, Clayton, on August 18, 1999. Welcome into the world, little buddy! Don't give Mommy a hard time when you get older! Friends always, Isabelle, and another chubby baby boy, Simon.

Congratulations to Pauline Lameboy Dixon and her husband Ben Dixon on the birth of their son Tristin Alexandre Daguawdin who was born in Val d'Or on Oct. 3 1999 at 9:03 p.m. Weighing eight pounds. Wow! A little brother for Alycia to play with. Best wishes to you both with your little family. From brother Rene Dixon, Mary and family.

But Jesus said, "let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for such is the kingdom of heaven." Congratulations! On the safe arrival of my first beautiful neice, Joyce Amisha Jewel Saganash. Born to Brenda Moore and Ernest Saganash on Sept. 3, 1999 at 12 p.m. Sharp. Weighing seven pounds ?Oz. God bless you and your children. Love and prayers; Julie, Peter and Dale.

Congratulations going to our son Clifford and our daughter

in law Stella of their baby girl on Oct. 10, 1999 please take care of your little bundle of joy, if and a little baby sister for Selena to play with. We love you very much, from Mom in Eastmain.

I would like to congratulate my uncle Clifford and Stella Weapenicappo of their baby girl Oct. 10, 1999. Take care of her. She will bring you joy, happiness, laughter and love like her big sister (Selena). Clifford and Stella, whenever you need help, I will be there to help. Love always, your niece Geraldine Weapenicappo xxx in Eastmain, Que.

We would like to congratulate Emmett MacLeod and his girlfriend Amanda MacKenzie on the birth of their first baby boy Niklas Luke born on Oct. 3, 1999 in North Bay. Weighing 5 lbs. and 10 oz. you must have been thankful blessed that your baby arrive one week before Thanksgiving day. We can't wait to see your little boy. With love, Eva, Stephanie and Frances.

101-BIRTHDAYS

A dear friend of mine will be Celebrating her Birthday on November 13, 1999. That friend of mine is Micheline Saganash. Hope you'll have a Blast on your Birthday. Friend always Carole K.

On September 9, we wanna wish a belated birthday and belated anniversary to Rene R. Dixon, you are truly a wonderful father/husband. We are blessed to have you, we love you so much. So many things have changed ever since you came into my life. Life has given us the gift of love and God has given us the gift of life, our children Renee, Amelia & Tyrone. We have accomplished so much together. Therefore I will do everything in my power to give the best in life. Your wife, Mary and your children.

I'd like to wish my cousin

Clint Flageole a happy belated birthday on Oct. 15 1999. Have a wonderful B-Day. I'm really sorry about your mom. Love and prayers, your cuz Minnie

We want to wish Norman Trapper a happy Halloween birthday who turned 26 times scarier on Oct. 31. From: N, C & L.

On November 19, 1999 a very special girl will turn two years old, we would like to wish her a happy birthday. We want to let her know how much we love her, she brought joy and happiness to us since she came to our lives when she was eight months old. We always treat, love and respect her like a daughter. We will always love her even if she goes back to her parents. We want to thank them for letting us take care of her and let them know how special and loving she is. A very happy birthday to you Josephine Alexandria Nabinacaboo Selma and many more come. We love you and always will. From your uncle and Aunt, Gilles & Christina (Kawawa).

We would like to wish a happy second birthday to our neice Josephine Alexandria Nabinacaboo Selma on November 19, 1999. We also want to say that we love you very much, and always will. We hope that you'll have a nice birthday. So here's to you happy birthday Josephine. From, Noah, Roger, Allan,

Christian and Mary (Kawawa).

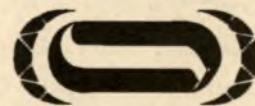
We want to wish a very happy birthday to our special lady, who will be celebrating her birthday on Dec. 21, 1999. We want to let you know how much we live you and thanks for being therefore us, a good and bad times for so many years. We hope your birthday will be bright and sweet as you are to us. Happy birthday to you Mom and many more to come, and also have a very Merry Christmas. From your children, Steven, Guy, Silas, Thomas, Christina, Alex, Jeannie and Michael. (Kawawa).

We want to wish a happy birthday to our brother Thomas Nabinacaboo the celebrating his birthday on Dec. 21, 1999. We hope your day will be bright and sweet as our Mom and you will come home for your birthday and celebrate it with our Mom. Happy birthday brother, and hope to see you soon, we miss you. And also to have a very Merry Christmas. From your sisters in Kawawa. Jeannie and Christina.

We want to wish a happy birthday to these girls Monica V. on Nov. 20/99, Kristen G. on Oct. 23/99, Samantha M. on Oct. 29/99 and last but not least Roslyn T. on Nov. 16/99. P.S. don't party too much we will keep an eye on you girls.

Sending birthday greetings to Cynthia Mabel Lynn McLeod in Moose Factory, Ont. Whose birthday is on November 9,

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1999. From your relatives in Waskaganish, Que

We would like to wish a happy birthday to Dylan Hester on November 6, 1999 also to Trevor Moar on November 21, 1999 and last but not least to our humorous and handsome brother / uncle / father / son George P. Hester. Have a wonderful day and may your wishes come true as you celebrate your special day. With love your family and relatives in Waskaganish.

Happy birthday to my very own Pokemon on November 27. Happy lucky 13th to Eric. From your ever loving dad, Will

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday Casey House who celebrates 5th Birthday on the 19th of November. Enjoy your day Casey! From: Beverly, Shania & Tommy

This special birthday wish goes out to our very special Godmother Helen Sam whose birthday is on the 23rd of November. Happy Birthday with many happy returns!! Love always, Casey House and Shania Cox-Napash.

102-WEDDINGS

I would like to Congratulate two of my friends who will be tying the knot this month. Jennifer Pepabano & Robert Dixon on the 12th. Also Christina Spencer & Reggie Sealhunter on the 16th. I wish you all the best, life has to offer. Best Wishes!! From: Beverly

I'd like to congratulate my uncle Andrew Neeposh and Ruby Tanoush on their wedding on Oct. 16 1999. Congratulations, may you both have a wonderful day on your special day. Wishing you both the best in life. In friendship, Minnie Capisissit In Ouje-Bougoumou.

Congratulations to Cheryl & Kevin Goulais who had their wedding on Oct. 16/99 in Wemindji. We wish you a wonderful life together

throughout the years to come. Happy belated birthday to Samia who turned one year old on her parents waiting day. Love Ted, Elsa Moses & Family (St-Adolphe D'Howard)

I want to congratulate Cheryl & Kevin Goulais, who got married on Oct. 16/99 in Wemindji. I was glad to be a part of your wedding! Have a wonderful life throughout the

years to come. Lots of love to all of you and give a kiss to Samia for me. Fr: Nian Moses (St-Adolphe D'Howard)
Congratulations to our mommy and Daddy who tied do not on

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Oct. 8, 1999. Barbara Daphane Hester and Jack Allen Diamond. We are so happy for you and we love you oh so very much. Fr: your son Christopher Jack Hester and your daughter Crystal Annette Diamond. (Wask.)

103-ANNIVERSARIES

Belated wedding Anniversary wishes to Olivia & Terry Visitor on Sept. 6th 1999. Wow it's been three years now. The years have gone by fast! May all the joy and happiness fill your hearts with long lasting love. Congrats again! Lots of love!!! From Nian Moses. (St-Adolphe D'Howard) p.s. Give hugs and kisses to Terrence and Bertha for me.

To our dearest sister Jeanette and Richard Shecapio. We wanted to issue both have been belated first anniversary. Wishing you love and happiness, may God richly bless you both. Love always, Doreen and Nancy Brien.

Happy 22nd anniversary to my loving and caring parents, Jimmy and Flora Moore on Nov. 5 1999. May God continue to keep you together till the end. God bless you both. With love and prayers, Julie, Peter and Dale. xoxo

Wishing a very special tenth wedding anniversary to Robert and Mary Baribeau on September 1st, 1999 in Mississini. Wow it's hard to believe you have been Married for ten years. It seems like only yesterday. Your marriage is blessed with four children whom we love very much!!! With love, Eva, Stephanie & Frances.

105-OBITUARIES

My deepest sympathy goes out to Eleanor Gull for the loss of close friend [late Valerie Gull] I know she was like a sister to you, she will always have a special place in your heart. I know you miss her a lot especially in your home. Take good care of yourself and your

son Dawson. From a friend who cares a lot. (Waswanipi)

200-FOR SALE

Tent for sale. 40 X 60 feet. Aluminum steel frame, no centre pole along with coverings (white tarps). Used only two summers, still in good condition. Price: \$23,800.00. First come and first serve. For more information don't hesitate to call. Cree Nation of Eastmain C/O Ricky Gilpin or Roger Weapenicappo at 819-977-2262 or 2263. Message: 819-977-0211.

300-PERSONALS

We want to say a big hello to our friend, Kristen Georgekish from Wemindji. So how's with you know who? Oh I almost forgot your birthday. Happy Birthday! Kristen on Oct. 23/99 p.s. Don't party too much.

To Nicole!! If you believe in yourself and you have the determination to finish high school, believe me you will conquer it, and surely you will succeed. Also, have faith in yourself. Good luck in your education. P.S. we love you and we believe in you. With love, Joshua and our son

Jason.

500-MISCELLANEOUS

Please take notice. I, Annette Julie Diamond residing at 63 popular street, Waswanipi, Que. present to the Director L'etat Civil a request to change the name of my daughter Meraya Sophie Diamond to Mariah Sophie Diamond. Sept 22, 1999.

I'm French, 30 years old, artist painter interested in different Indian civilizations and their history. My wish is to communicate with one or two people. Cassandra Leupard 20, Rue de Dijon 70100 Arc les Gray, France

Hey, listen up people. My name is "Ninety Nine", and I need some e-mail pen pals to write to! Age, male, or female, it doesn't matter who you are. As long as I receive a e-mail from someone! My address is a t : nine_teen_ninety_nine@hotmail.com. I hope that someone well write 2 mesomeday. So anyway, I should be looking forward of getting a e-mail from anyone, Bye! Sincerely, Ninety Nine.

In the Montreal area there is interest to learn Cree. For teachers of Cree please e-mail

Aboriginal Women of Montreal at famawm@cam.org This is a non-profit organisation, and AWM greatly appreciates any help in funding or otherwise that is offered. Meegwetch.

Are alcohol and drugs destroying your life? Do you want to help yourself? Maybe we can help. We are Alcoholics Anonymous. We meet in Mississini on Saturday evenings, 8 p.m., in the basement of St. John's Anglican church.

Hello. :) I am a Cree individual with a cat and a room for rent in a large 5&1/2 for 250.00 / mo. negotiable, location Montreal. Non-smoking student or professional preferred. Please reply at 514.284.3097

Seeking email pen pals. Males or females, doesn't matter. I am a female. Just write to me at my email a d d r e s s , Guess_me55@hotmail.com. Just tell me about yourself and I'll tell you about myself when I write back. I promised to respond soon! Hope you write to me!

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Please fill out and give to a friend, family member or a loved one.



Dear _____,

I promise that if I'm ever in a situation where people have been drinking, I will not drive or get in a car with someone who has been drinking.

Love, _____



Dear _____,

I promise that if you are ever in a situation where there's been drinking and you need a ride home, you can call me at any hour of the night, regardless of how late it is or how you may be feeling. In return, you promise to never drink and drive, or get in a car with someone who has been drinking.

Love, _____



For everybody's sake,

PLEASE

don't drink and drive.



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